Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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R 131521Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO USINT BAGHDAD

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOURM

AMEMBASSY KUWIAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MODADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

SECSTATE WASHDC 581

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USDOC WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 0731

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, EG

SUBJ: ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

REF: BAGHDAD 68

1. GOE'S RELATIVELY MODERATE, PRAGMATIC STANCE ON BOYCOTT MATTERS HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY IN EVIDENCE SINCE REESTABLISH-CONFIDENTIAL

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MENT OF ECONOMIC TIES WITH US IN 1974, ALTHOUGH IN PRINCIPLE EGYPT SUBSCRIBES TO ALL ASPECTS OF BOYCOTT AND BOYCOTT IS SANCTIONED UNDER EGYPTIAN LAW. IN PRACTICE, DISCRIMINATION CLAUSES ARE NOT USED AND NEGATIVE CERTIFICATION IS NOT BELIEVED BY GOE TO BE NECESSARY. ENFORCEMENT, WITH RESPECT TO BOYCOTT MATTERS GENERALLY, DEPENDS ON BALANCE BETWEEN EGYPT'S VARIOUS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS.

WE HAVE SEEN NO SIGNS OF CHANGE IN THIS GENERAL APPROACH TO BOYCOTT QUESTIONS BY GOE.

2. VARIETY OF BOYCOTT LANGUAGE NONETHELESS CROPS UP IN DOCUMENTATION FROM TIME TO TIME, INCLUDING REQUIREMENT FOR SEVERAL TYPES OF NEGATIVE CERTIFICATION SUCH AS PRIMARY BOYCOTT-RELATED DECLARATION THAT GOODS ARE NOT OF ISRAELI ORIGIN. UNACCEPTABLE PROVISIONS ARE INVARIABLY DELETED AT OUR REQUEST, WHEN THEY INADVERTENTLY OCCUR, IN RELATION TO AID-FINANCED ITEMS. ON AD HOC BASIS, WE UNDERSTAND, NEGATIVE PROVISIONS OCCASIONALLY ARE WITHDRAWN AT BEHEST OF US COMPANIES WITH RESPECT TO AWARD OF SPECIFIC CONTRACTS EVEN THROUGH TENDER DOCUMENT MAY INCLUDE SUCH LANGUAGE. WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING RESEMBLING SEVEN-POINT OATH CITED REFTEL.

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NNN

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